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PATENT

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicular snow ski steering keel bar comprising:

a side surface including first and second side surface portions extending to first and second lateral extensions of said bar, respectively, and extending longitudinally at least partially along said bar, said side surface also including a recessed surface portion disposed between and recessed in from each of said first and second lateral extensions, wherein at least one of said first and second lateral extensions projects laterally outward more than an other of said first and second lateral extensions; and

a top surface having a shape that at least partially mates and/or conforms with a shape of an undersurface of a vehicular snow ski keel.

2. (Original) The vehicular snow ski steering keel bar of claim 1, wherein said shape of said top surface has a width that matches a width of the undersurface of the vehicular snow ski keel.

3. (Original) The vehicular snow ski steering keel bar of claim 1, wherein said shape of said top surface includes at least one of a flat, recess, notch, saw tooth, key, curve, radius, ridge and any combination thereof that at least partially mates with the undersurface of a vehicular snow ski keel.

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4. (Original) The vehicular snow ski steering keel bar of claim 1, wherein said recessed surface portion in cooperation with a lateral surface of the vehicular snow ski keel alters the compacting of snow coming in contact therewith.

5. (Currently Amended) A vehicular snow ski steering keel bar comprising:

an elongated member having a front end, a back end and an intermediate portion extending longitudinally between said ends, said intermediate portion having a first side surface extending longitudinally at least partially therealong and facing in an at least first lateral direction therefrom; said first side surface having a recessed surface portion extending longitudinally at least partially therealong and a first side surface portion below and extending outwardly in said at least first lateral direction from said recessed surface portion to a first lateral extension, wherein said intermediate portion further has a second side surface extending longitudinally at least partially therealong and facing in an at least second lateral direction opposite said at least first lateral direction, said second side surface having another recessed surface portion extending longitudinally at least partially therealong and an other first side portion below and extending outwardly in said at least second direction from said other recessed surface portion to an other first lateral extension; and

a top surface having a shape that at least mates

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and/or conforms to an undersurface of a ski keel, whereby said lateral recessed surface portion and said first side surface portion cooperate for at least collecting and/or compacting snow and/or other material coming in proximity to at least one of said recessed surface portion and said first side surface portion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) The vehicular snow ski steering keel bar of claim 5, wherein said first side surface has a second side surface portion above and extending outwardly in said at least first lateral direction from said recessed surface portion to a second lateral extension.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The vehicular snow ski steering keel bar of claim 5, wherein said intermediate portion has a transverse cross-sectional shape in which a width extending transversely thereacross and from said recessed surface portion is less than a first width extending transversely thereacross and from said first side surface portion.

12. (Cancelled)

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13. (Original) A vehicular snow ski steering keel bar of claim 5, wherein said recessed surface portion includes a concave surface portion.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The vehicular snow ski steering keel bar of claim 5, wherein said first side surface portion includes a convex surface portion.

16. (Original) The vehicular snow ski steering keel bar of claim 5, wherein said intermediate portion includes a bottom surface and at least one insert of a material harder than that of said intermediate portion and affixed to said bottom surface.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A vehicular snow ski steering keel bar comprising:

an elongated member extending longitudinally and having a front end, a back end and an intermediate portion extending longitudinally between said ends, said intermediate portion having a first side surface and a second side surface each extending longitudinally at least partially therealong, said first side surface facing in an at least first lateral direction therefrom, said second side surface facing in an at least second lateral direction

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opposite said at least first lateral direction, at least one of said first and second side surfaces having a recessed surface portion extending longitudinally at least partially therealong and a first side surface portion below and extending outwardly from said recessed surface portion, wherein said first side surface includes said recessed surface portion and said first side surface portion below and extending outwardly from said recessed surface portion and wherein said second side surface includes an other recessed surface portion extending longitudinally at least partially therealong and an other first side surface portion below and extending outwardly from said other recessed surface portion; and

a top surface that at least partially mates and/or conforms to an undersurface of a ski keel, whereby said recessed surface portion and said first side surface portion cooperate for at least collecting and/or compacting snow and/or other material coming in proximity to at least one of said recessed surface portion and said first side surface portion.

20. (Cancelled)